

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
May 28, 2018**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

April 28th was National Day of Mourning, a time when workers, families, employers, unions and others come together to remember those who have lost their lives to work-related incidents or occupational diseases.

I attended a number of ceremonies held on April 27 to help pay tribute to our fallen and injured workers. I would also like to thank the many Local 500 members who also attended worksite ceremonies.

CUPE MOURNS MEMBER KILLED ON THE JOB

Sadly, less than a month after the Day of Mourning, CUPE Local 500 reports the death of one of our members who tragically lost his life due to a work related accident.

The accident occurred on May 22 at the City's water treatment plant while working on equipment on top of a large chemical storage tank, when he fell to the ground.

The Local is deeply saddened by this tragedy and we offer our heartfelt condolences and thoughts to his family, friends and co-workers.

Local 500 is working with the City to ensure our members have access to EAP and grief counseling to support them during this difficult time.

An investigation into the incident is in ongoing and Local 500 will be following it closely. Out of respect and integrity for the investigation, the Local is not in a position to share more information.

Since 1978, Local 500 has lost sixteen members to a workplace accident or illness.

I would ask that the delegates at Central Council observe a moment of silence to remember those who died, or were injured or made ill from their work and commit to protecting workers and preventing further workplace tragedies.

CUPE MANITOBA CONVENTION

About 200 delegates, observers and guests attended the 55th Annual CUPE Manitoba Convention held in Brandon from May 1 – 4.

Delegates to the convention endorsed a number of resolutions and participated in some good discussions about political action, mental health issues, contracting out and privatization, domestic violence and other social issues that affect us all.

In his address to convention, National President, Mark Hancock urged delegates to always work hard to improve collective agreements, and never accept rollbacks. National Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Fleury gave delegates some good news on the financial front by announcing that CUPE's latest budget included eighteen new staff positions to handle growth in membership and workload.

Other guest speakers included Manitoba NDP Leader, Wab Kinew, former CUPE National President, Paul Moist, Manitoba Federation of Labour President, Kevin Rebeck, and CUPE Saskatchewan President, Tom Graham.

We also heard from Bernadett Smith, NDP MLA for Point Douglas who gave an emotional speech about her sister Claudette Osborne, who went missing more than eight years ago.

I was proud and honoured to have been re-elected as CUPE Manitoba Vice-President.

The Local would like to congratulate Brother Phil Dembicki on being this year's recipient of the prestigious Jack Rodie award. Jack Rodie is a former Local 500 member and served as CUPE Manitoba President from 1965 – 1981.

I want to thank all the Local 500 members who participated in the convention whether it was speaking at a mic or sitting on a convention committee.

BILL 29: THE HEALTH SECTOR BARGAINING UNIT REVIEW ACT

On May 10, the Provincial Government enacted Bill 29: *The Health Sector Bargaining Unit Review Act*. Specifically, Bill 29 aims to reduce the number of bargaining units to seven in order to have just one collective agreement and be represented by a single union. The proposed categories include: Doctors, nurses, medical residents, Physician Assistants and Clinical Assistants, professional/technical/paramedical, facility and community support workers.

This means that health care workers across Manitoba will be forced to vote for their union in the coming months. The “winning union’s” biggest contract will be the basis for negotiating the next collective agreement that covers all the workers in that category.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The government has appointed a Commissioner who will oversee the votes. This process will take a long time. First, the Commissioner has to make a plan on how the votes will take place and who will be affected. Then each union can make submissions to the Commissioner. Next, the Commissioner will decide when the votes take place.

CALL TO ACTION

We know this is complicated. We want to make sure every CUPE member understands what Bill 29 means. CUPE is a strong health care union representing 150,000 health care workers across Canada, and over 11,500 in Manitoba. We need to keep working together for public health care! Here’s some things you can do:

- Take a “Stop the Cuts” sign;
- Join the Local 500 Facebook page;
- Sign up for email updates on the Local 500 website.

The Local will continue to update the membership as more information becomes available.

CITY AND CUPE REACH UNDERSTANDING – RE: MAKE-UP SHIFTS AT MILLENNIUM LIBRARY - WHITEOUT PARTIES

A number of temporary staff at the Millennium Library who had their hours reduced or shifts cancelled due to the whiteout street party events, will have an opportunity to make up for the lost hours.

On May 14, the Union and the City reached an understanding that provides for members at the Millennium Library to be assigned to available shifts to make up for their hours lost as a result of the early library closures.

We are pleased that both parties were able to work together to find a solution that alleviates the financial impact to the affected employees.

Should any member have any questions or concerns about the process to make up shifts, please contact your library supervisor.

The Local will keep you posted on any other developments on this matter.

LOCAL 500 SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARIES

The deadline to submit your Scholarship and/or Bursary application is **June 29, 2018**.

This year, the fund is offering **one scholarship of \$1,500** and **three bursaries of \$900 each**. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement and the bursaries on the basis of good academic standing with consideration of financial need.

For more information or to request an application form, please contact the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001 or visit our website cupe500.mb.ca and go to the scholarship and bursary application and information page.

GOOD OF THE UNION

- **2018 Pride Winnipeg Parade/Rally:** Join with CUPE members and thousands of others at the Pride Rally/Parade on June 3, 10:00 am – Rally (steps of the Manitoba Legislature Building) – 11:00 am Parade starts (Memorial Boulevard and York Ave.)
- **1918 Civic Employees strike** – One hundred years ago this month, Winnipeg civic employees went on strike for three weeks over wages and the right of public employees to legally strike. The dispute escalated to include members of over three-dozen local unions not associated with the city, which struck in support of civic employees. In many respects, this strike was the dress rehearsal for the 1919 Winnipeg general strike, and it spoke to rising tensions between labour and business in Winnipeg.

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE
President

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